

**REMARKS**

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the subject application. This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the July 16, 2003 Office Action associated with the parent case of this application.

The Applicant notes that claims 11–17 of the parent case are now claims 1–7 of the instant case. However, the Applicant has moved claim 14 to become claim 7, because claim 14 was drafted in independent format.

**35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

In the parent application, all claims were rejected under different combinations of references, wherein all of the combinations included U.S. patent 5,758,259, issued to Lawler.

The Lawler reference is commonly assigned with the instant application. The Lawler reference issued after the filing date of the instant application's parent. Accordingly, the Lawler reference is no longer prior art against the instant application. (MPEP 706.02(l)(1))

## **Conclusion**

The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued. If the Office's next anticipated action is not the issuance of a Notice of Allowability, the Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that could be clarified over the telephone, the

1      Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

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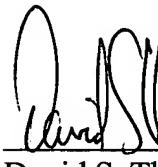
3      Respectfully Submitted,

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5      Dated: 10-16-03

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By:



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